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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 101017-1 WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA416)	
International application No. PCT/SE2004/000534	International filing date (day/month/year) 06.04.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 07.04.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC C07C317/22		
Applicant ASTRAZENECA AB et al.		

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36. 2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet. <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of sheets.</p> 3. This report contains indications relating to the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the opinion II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority III <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application
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Date of submission of the demand 29.10.2004	Date of completion of this report 14.02.2005
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer Breimaier, W Telephone No. +49 89 2399-8327



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/SE2004/000534

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-31 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-11 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages:
- the claims, Nos.:
- the drawings, sheets:

5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

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III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:
 - the entire international application,
 - claims Nos. 10, 11

because:

 - the said international application, or the said claims Nos. 10, 11 relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (specify):
see separate sheet
 - the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):
 - the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.
 - no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos.
2. A meaningful international preliminary examination cannot be carried out due to the failure of the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions:
 - the written form has not been furnished or does not comply with the Standard.
 - the computer readable form has not been furnished or does not comply with the Standard.

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-11
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-11
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-9
	No: Claims	10, 11 (?)

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

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Re Item III

Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

Claims 10 and 11 relate to subject-matter considered by this Authority to be covered by the provisions of Rule 67.1(iv) PCT. Consequently, no opinion will be formulated with respect to the industrial applicability of the subject-matter of these claims (Article 34(4)(a)(I) PCT).

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

The present application according to claims 1 to 11 concerns phenoxyacetic acid derivatives of general formula (I) which are said to be active at the CRTH2 receptor and are therefore suitable for treating various respiratory diseases (preferably asthma).

novelty

The subject-matter according to claims 1 to 11 is novel (Art. 33(2) PCT).

None of the documents of the available prior art (see present page 1, lines 7 to 10) discloses phenoxyacetic acid derivatives of general formula (I) according to claim 1.

Thus, novelty of the subject-matter claimed is given.

inventive step

The subject-matter according to claims 1 to 11 is based on an inventive step (Art. 33(3) PCT).

In view of the closest state of the art as cited on page 1, second paragraph of the description, the problem posed is the provision of further novel compounds being useful for treating diseases mediated by prostaglandin D2. This is solved by the present phenoxyacetic acid derivatives of general formula (I). In the examples exclusively biphenyl derivatives of (I) have been tested to show the desired binding activity (see examples 1 to 7 and page 31, lines 30 and 31).

There is no hint in the available prior art which would have led the skilled person to the present phenoxy acetic acid derivatives in order to solve the above problem. For example, GB-A 1356834 discloses indolyl acetic acid derivatives which show e.g. anti-inflammatory

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activity and EP-A 1 170 594 discloses prostaglandin derivatives (see fig. 6) which are active at the CRTH2 receptor, both types of compounds are structurally remote to the present phenoxyacetic acids. Thus, the present solution has been achieved in an unobvious manner and inventiveness of the subject-matter claimed is also given.

industrial applicability

For the assessment of the present claims 10 and 11 on the question whether they are industrially applicable, no unified criteria exist in the PCT Contracting States. The patentability can also be dependent upon the formulation of the claims. The EPO, for example, does not recognize as industrially applicable the subject-matter of claims to the use of a compound in medical treatment, but may allow, however, claims to a known compound for first use in medical treatment and the use of such a compound for the manufacture of a medicament for a new medical treatment.

further remarks

The embodiment of the invention described on page 23, line 9 having regard to the term "prodrugs" do not fall within the scope of the claims. This inconsistency between the claims and the description leads to doubt concerning the matter for which protection is sought, thereby rendering the claims unclear (Art. 6 PCT). In addition it is noted that this term is a functional term, ie an expression attempting to define the subject-matter in terms of a desired property instead of indicating precisely the technical features specifically designed to solve the problem posed which is in contrast to Art. 5 and 6 PCT.